

# **Pittsburgh Action Against Rape**

## **Fact sheet on Survivors with Developmental Disabilities**

### **What is a Developmental Disability?**

A developmental disability is manifested before the age of 22 and is usually expected to last indefinitely. A person with a developmental disability has functional limitations in three or more of the following areas: self-care, mobility, learning, language, self-direction. These limitations in return decrease the capacity for independence and economic self-sufficiency. Developmental disabilities include but are not limited to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and muscular dystrophy.

### **When providing services to someone who has developmental disability:**

- ◆ Developmental disabilities can affect many areas such as sensory, communication, mobility and cognition. Thus, there can be an overlap of a specific disability into several of the broad areas of limitations. Some factors to consider are:
  - The person may require assistance for communication, or an interpreter.
  - On-site personal care assistance may be needed.
  - Meeting spaces must be accessible.
  - Transportation arrangements must be accessible.
  - The person may need assistance with reading, writing and understanding information.

**For more information regarding developmental disabilities,  
please visit:**

**<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dd/>**

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